

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 of page 3 with the following.

The first side member may be provided at an upper area of the first main plate section thereof with a first reinforcing rib portion. The first reinforcing rib portion may be formed by embossing a region of the upper area of the first main plate section and making the region of the upper area of the first main plate section concave in such a manner that the region of the upper area of the first main plate section protrudes inward. The second side member may be provided at an upper area of the second main plate section thereof with a second reinforcing rib portion. The second reinforcing rib portion may be formed by embossing a region of the upper area of the second main plate section and making the region of the upper area of the second main plate section concave in such a manner that the region of the upper area of the second main plate section protrudes inward. The upper member may be provided at the first and second end portions thereof with first and second ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces. The first and second ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces are spot-welded to inward protruding surfaces of the first and second reinforcing rib portions. The inward protruding surfaces of the first and second reinforcing rib portions are made flat.

Please replace the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS with the following.

These and other objects and many of the attendant advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference numerals denote the same parts throughout the Figures and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a schematic exploded front view of a seat back frame according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic side view of the seat back frame shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a schematic perspective view of an upper section of an upper member

of the seat back frame;

FIG. 4 is a schematic perspective view of a base section of the upper member;

FIG. 5 is a schematic enlarged sectional side view of the upper member taken on a plane indicated in Fig. 10 by line V-V;

FIG. 6 is a schematic perspective view of a lower member and supplementary member of the seat back frame;

FIG. 7 is a schematic perspective view in which the upper member is combined with spaced apart side members of the seat back frame;

FIG. 8 is a schematic perspective view in which the lower member of FIG. 6 and the supplementary member of FIG. 6 are combined with each other;

FIG. 9 is a schematic perspective view that is of assistance in explaining the connecting of the lower member to the side members;

FIG. 10 is a schematic front view of an assembled seat back frame according to the embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11 is a schematic side view of the seat back frame shown in FIG. 10;

FIG. 12 is a schematic perspective view of a modification of the supplementary member shown in FIG. 6; and

FIG. 13 is a schematic perspective view of a vehicle seat including the seat back frame of FIG. 10.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 6 on page 7 with the following.

The main plate section 10 of the first side member 1 has first reinforcing means for reinforcing the main plate section 10. The first reinforcing means includes a first vertically extending rib portion 13 of a substantially rectangular shape (see FIG. 2) provided at an upper region of the main plate section 10 and a second vertically extending rib portion 14 of a substantially rectangular shape (see FIG. 2) provided at a middle region of the main plate section 10. Similarly, the main plate section 20 of the second side member 2 has second reinforcing means for reinforcing the main plate section 20. The second reinforcing means includes a third vertically extending rib portion 23 of a substantially rectangular shape provided at an upper region of the main plate section 20 and a fourth vertically extending rib portion 24 of a substantially

rectangular shape provided at a middle region of the main plate section 20. The first and second reinforcing means are formed by embossing portions of the main plate sections 10, 20 and making the portions of the main plate sections 10, 20 concave in such a manner that the portions of the main plate sections 10, 20 protrude inwardly. As will be discussed in greater detail hereinafter, both ends of the upper member 3 are to be welded to inwardly protruding surfaces of the first and third rib portions 13, 23 of the first and second side members 1, 2 by spot-welding. For this ~~purposes~~ purpose, an inwardly protruding surface of each of the first and third rib portions 13, 23 is formed flat. In a case where a first arm rest is provided at the middle region of the main plate section 10 at which the second rib portion 14 is provided, and a second arm rest is provided at the middle region of the main plate section 20 at which the fourth rib portion 24 is provided, the second and fourth rib portions 14, 24 also serve as means to reinforce surfaces of the middle regions of the main plate sections 10, 20 on which the first and second arm rests are provided.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 4 on page 8 with the following.

As shown in FIG. 2, a bead-like projection 15 for reinforcing a lower region of the main plate section 10 is provided on the lower region of the main plate section 10. Similarly, though not shown in FIG. 1, a bead-like projection for reinforcing a lower region of the main plate section 20 is provided on the lower region of the main plate section 20. Further, as shown in FIG. 1, bead-like projections 16a, 16b for reinforcing the lengthily extending upper region 12a of the flange section 12 are provided on the lengthily extending upper region 12a of the flange section 12, and ~~bear-like~~ bead-like projections 26a, 26b for reinforcing the lengthily extending upper region 22a of the flange section 22 are provided on the lengthily extending upper region 22a of the flange section 22a. In addition to serving as the reinforcing means, each of the bead-like projections 15, 16a, 16b, 26a, 26b and unshown bead-like projection of the lower region of the main plate section 20 serves as means to prevent a plate of ultra-high tensile strength steel from warping when the plate is press-machined in order to make each of the first and second side members 1, 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 8 with the following.

As shown in FIGS. 3 and 5, the upper section 3a of the upper member 3 comprises a top horizontal surface portion 30a, a front side surface portion 30b continuously extending downward from the top surface portion 30a, a bottom surface portion 30c continuously extending from the front side surface portion 30b in substantially parallel with the top horizontal surface portion 30a, a downward extending surface portion 30d continuously extending and hanging from the bottom surface portion 30c, and a lower flange portion 30e extending along a lower edge of the downward extending surface portion 30d. In addition, a rear side surface portion 30f continuously extends downward from the top surface portion 30a. The top surface portion 30a is provided at both sides thereof with downward bent ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 31a, 31b which are to be welded to the side members 1, 2 by spot-welding. The ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 31a, 31b are formed by bending both end portions of the top surface portion 30a downward, and continuously extend from the top surface portion 30a and the rear side surface portion 30f at upper regions thereof.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 23 on page 9 with the following.

As shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, the base section 3b of the upper member 3 comprises a base body 34a and a rising portion 34b rising upwardly from the base body 34a. A front side edge of the base body 34a is formed into a substantially bow-shape so as to protrude forward at both end portions of the base body 34a. A downward protruding flange 34c is provided along the bow-shaped edge of the base body 34a. The base body 34a is provided at both side regions thereof with downward bent ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 35a, 35b which are to be welded to the side members 1, 2 by spot-welding. The rising portion 34b of the base section 3b comprises a first end region 34b-1, a second end region 34b-2, and a middle region 34b-3 between the first end region 34b-1 and the second end region 34b-2. The first and second end regions 34b-1, 34b-2 are protruded forward from the middle region 34b-3. An upper flange 34d is provided along an upper edge of the rising portion 34b and protruded forward from the rising portion 34b.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5 on page 11 with the following.

The supplementary member 5 comprises a longitudinal body 5a having the shape of a substantially Ohm-symbol in cross-section. The longitudinal body 5a of the supplementary member 5 comprises a pair of spaced apart longitudinal portions, a connecting longitudinal portion interconnecting the spaced apart longitudinal portions, and protruding fin portions extending along edges of the spaced apart longitudinal portions and protruding from the spaced apart longitudinal portions. The supplementary member 5 is to be attached to the lower member 4 by spot-welding so as to cover the embossed portion 43 of the lower member 4. The supplementary member 5 has a width enough to cover the embossed portion 43 of the lower member 4. Spaced apart rising ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 50a and spaced apart rising ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 50b are provided at upper and lower edges of the fin portion of the spaced apart longitudinal portions of the supplementary member 5. The ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 50a, 50b are to be welded to the longitudinal body 40 of the lower member 4 by spot-welding. Further, the connecting longitudinal portion of the supplementary member 5 is provided at both ends thereof with forward bent ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 51a, 51b which are to be welded to the flange portions 41a, 41b of the lower member 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 25 on page 11 with the following.

As shown in FIG. 7, the upper member 3 is combined with the side members 1, 2 with the both sides thereof being fitted in the U-shaped side members 1,2 and with the ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 31a, 31b thereof being contacted with upper regions of the inward protruding surfaces of the rib portions 13, 23 of the side members 1, 2.

Please replace the first three paragraphs on page 12 with the following.

The upper section 3a of the upper member 3 is mounted to the side members 1, 2 by spot-welding the front side surface portion 30b of the upper section 3a to the first and third flange portions 11, 21 of the side members 1,2, spot-welding the downward

extending surface portion 30d and rear side surface portion 30f of the upper section 3a to the second and fourth flange portions 12, 22 of the side members 1,2, and spot-welding the ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 31a, 31b of the upper section 3a to the upper regions of the inward protruding surfaces of the rib portions 13, 23. Incidentally, the welding points are denoted by a reference designator X in FIGS. 7 to 10.

The base section 3b of the upper member 3 is mounted to the side members 1, 2 by spot-welding both side regions of the rising portion 34b of the base section 3b to the second and fourth flange portions 12, 22 of the side members 1, 2, and spot-welding the ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 35a, 35b of the base section 3b to lower regions of the inward protruding surfaces of the rib portions 13, 23 of the side members 1, 2, whereby the upper section 3a is received and supported by the base section 3b. Incidentally, the mounting of the upper section 3a to the side members 1, 2 is preferably carried out after the base section 3b is mounted to the side members 1, 2.

As shown in FIG. 8, the supplementary member 5 is applied onto an inner surface of the longitudinal body 40 of the lower member 4 and is mounted to the lower member 4 by spot-welding the ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 50a, 50b of the supplementary member 5 to the longitudinal body 40 of the lower member 4, and spot-welding the ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 51a, 51b of the supplementary member 5 to the bracket portions 41a, 41b of the lower member 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at last line on page 13 with the following.

Referring to FIG. 12, there is illustrated a modification of the supplementary member 5. The supplementary member 5' of FIG. 12 is substantially similar to the supplementary member 5 of FIGS. 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 except that bracket portions 5b (only one bracket portion 5b is shown in FIG. 12) are provided at both end portions of the longitudinal body 5a of the supplementary member 5' in lieu of the ~~tongue-like~~ tongue-shaped pieces 51a, 51b. Each of the bracket sections 5b is formed into a substantially L-shape as viewed from the front side, and has the shape of Ohm symbol in cross-section. The bracket portions 5b are attached to the side members 1, 2 (only one side member 2 is shown in FIG. 12) by spot-welding fin portions 5b' of the bracket portions 5b to the main plate sections 10, 20 of the side members 1, 2 (only one main

plate section 20 is shown in FIG. 12). The bracket portions 5b extend between the longitudinal body 5a of the supplementary member 5' on the lower member 4 and the side members 1, 2, so that the side members 1, 2 and the lower member 4 are reinforced by the bracket portions 5b. Incidentally, the supplementary member 5' may be made as a one-piece member comprising the longitudinal body 5a and the bracket portions 5b, or may comprise the longitudinal body 5a and bracket portions 5b which are made separately from one another.